

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RPOST /RMOOSE:SN
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
NSC:DAARON (SUBS)

-----081886 120226Z /15

O R 120154Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063448

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, OCLR, PDIP, ET, US

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN OR PERMSEC

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 1155 NOTAL; B) STATE 63392 NOTAL;
C) STATE 62981 NOTAL

I. IF IT WOULD HELP IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN
FELLEKE OR PERMSEC DAWIT, YOU MIGHT WISH ADVISE BERHANE
DERESSE THAT, IN ADDITION TO SUBJECT OF REFTELS, YOU HAVE
RECEIVED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM DAVID AARON FOR MENGISTU
WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER TO FONMIN AND
THAT YOU HAVE FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO CARRY
OUT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AARON MESSAGE:

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DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY DURING MY RECENT VISIT.
OUR CONVERSATION WAS INVALUABLE TO ME AND TO THE PRESIDENT
IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE ASPIRATIONS OF YOUR REVOLUTION,
YOUR DETERMINATION THAT ETHIOPIA REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND
NON-ALIGNED, AND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE WAR IN THE OGADEN.

WITH YOUR COMMENTS IN MIND, THE UNITED STATES FORCEFULLY REITERATED ITS ADVICE TO PRESIDENT SIAD THAT HE WITHDRAW HIS FORCES IMMEDIATELY FROM THE OGADEN AS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE TO ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO INTENTION OF PROVIDING SOMALIA WITH AN ARMS CAPABILITY WHICH WOULD SUPPORT ANY REPETITION OF THE TRAGIC INVASION OF YOUR COUNTRY. YOU WILL HAVE NOTED THE CLEAR STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THE US WOULD GIVE NO CONSIDERATION TO PROVISION OF DEFENSIVE ARMS OF ANY KIND TO SOMALIA WHILE SOMALI FORCES WERE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY, AND THAT WE WOULD ALSO REQUIRE FROM SOMALIA "A RENEWED COMMITMENT NOT TO DISHONOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF EITHER KENYA OR ETHIOPIA".

I WAS IMPRESSED BY WHAT I SAW ON MY VISIT OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR REVOLUTION IN WORKING TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE. I KNOW THAT OUR EMBASSY STAFF AND AID MISSION ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO APPROVAL BY YOUR GOVERNMENT OF OUR PENDING AID PROJECTS SO THAT WE CAN ASSIST YOU IN MEETING THESE GOALS AND CAN DEVELOP ADDITIONAL AREAS OF COOPERATION, INCLUDING THE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

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OF THE WAR-RAVAGED AREAS OF YOUR COUNTRY.

I HOPE YOU SHARE MY VIEW THAT THE FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE WE HAD IN THE COURSE OF MY VISIT TO YOUR CAPITAL OPENED A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SELECTED A SENIOR CAREER DIPLOMAT TO BE AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, AND HAS SOUGHT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT TO HIS ASSIGNMENT. ONCE HE HAS ARRIVED, HE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO CONTINUE AND EXTEND THE DIALOGUE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN US WHICH, I AM CONFIDENT, WILL LEAD TO A NEW LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. WE WILL EXPEDITE THE PROCESSES REQUIRED UNDER OUR SYSTEM FOR HIS CONFIRMATION BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE AS SOON AS YOUR GOVERNMENT ACTS ON OUR REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT, AND HE CAN BE IN ADDIS ABABA IN A MATTER OF WEEKS. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE CREATED A PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR RELATIONS. WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT WE MAY SHORTLY RECEIVE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL OF HIS ASSIGNMENT.

SINCERELY, DAVID AARON. END TEXT.

3. IN MEETING, AFTER DELIVERING LETTER, YOU MAY DRAW ON
REFS B AND C TO REQUEST EPMG RECONSIDERATION OF REF A
NEGATIVE DECISION. YOU SHOULD ADDITIONALLY URGE EPMG
COOPERATION WITH US IN THIS ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE THAT
PRESIDENT SIAD DOES NOT EVADE AGREEMENT HE GAVE US TO
WITHDRAW HIS FORCES. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT, IF EPMG
DECLINES TO COOPERATE, WE WILL REGRET IT BUT WE WILL
NOT, OF COURSE, PROCEED WITH THIS OPERATION.

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO , UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, DRAW UPON
THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN URGING THAT ETHIOPIANS
NOW STOP THE KILLING:

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--IT IS IMPORTANT TO ETHIOPIA'S IMAGE IN THE EYES OF THE
WORLD COMMUNITY THAT THERE BE NO BLOODBATH IN THE OGADEN;
(IF POINT IS RAISED) WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR CONCERN OVER
A POSSIBLE BLOODBATH NOW RUNS STRONGER THAN OUR REACTION
TO THE INITIAL SOMALI INVASION OF ETHIOPIA);

--ETHIOPIA HAS WON AN OVERWHELMING VICTORY OVER THE
SOMALIS; THE WORLD KNOWS THIS, BUT THE WORLD ALSO SEES
THAT THE SOMALIS ARE WITHDRAWING AND ARE VIRTUALLY DEFENSE-
LESS;

--WE UNDERSTAND THE ETHIOPIAN INSISTENCE ON A DECLARATION
OF RESPECT FOR THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; WE ARE PUBLIC-
LY INSISTING UPON SUCH A DECLARATION AND PUSHING THIS
POINT STRONGLY WITH THE SOMALIS;

--BUT MEANWHILE, AS WE BOTH PURSUE THAT AFFIRMATION,
ETHIOPIA WILL RISK LOSING THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT WHICH
IT NOW ENJOYS FOR ITS POSITION IF IT PURSUES THE DESTRUC-
TION OF A BEATEN ARMY WHICH THE WORLD KNOWS HAS BEEN
ORDERED TO WITHDRAW. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH A
COURSE OF ACTION WOULD GENERATE SYMPATHY FOR THE SOMALIS;

--IN THE HOUR OF THEIR GREAT VICTORY THE ETHIOPIANS CAN
WELL AFFORD TO BE MAGNANIMOUS TOWARD THEIR BEATEN FOE;
BY SO DOING THEY CAN FURTHER DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTH OF
THEIR MORAL POSITION;

--FINALLY, THE PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING ETHIOPIA'S TIES
WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE OGADEN CAN WELL BEGIN WITH A DIS-
PLAY OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR ITS POPULATION--AN
EFFORT FOR WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE INTERNATION-
AL SUPPORT. VANCE
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